

[REDACTED]

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WHITE HOUSE SUPPORT STAFF

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DIRECTOR: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: SOUTH VIETNAM--THE MILITARY SITUATION

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Heavy air strikes were carried out on April 8 in western Pleiku Province against Communist forces suspected of massing for an attack against a Ranger battalion. [REDACTED] Communist military activity in the area dropped sharply after the strikes. Government commanders still believe the Communists will attack government positions in either Pleiku or Kontum provinces. Both sides currently have about an equal number of troops in the two provinces and periodic clashes--sometimes intense--are likely.

Most of the action elsewhere in the country has been in the provinces north and west of Saigon and in the northern delta. Communist forces in Military Region 3 appear to be positioning some of their main force units along or near infiltration routes which they

have used traditionally to get nearer Saigon. South Vietnamese outposts near some of these routes have come under attack, and stepped up action against others probably are in the offing. In the delta, there are indications that the Communists may offer stiffer resistance to government operations near a Communist base area in Dinh Tuong Province.